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that a "close analogy exists between the clinical symptoms and pathological findings in barium poisoning and those resulting from feeding extracts of certain loco plants. Small doses of barium salts may be administered to rabbits without apparent effect, but suddenly acute symptoms set in analogous to what is reported on the range," and finally "barium was found in the ash of many 'loco' plants in amounts sufficient to account for the symptoms."

The author mentions that in other localities the toxic action may be due to substances other than barium, and explains the contradictory results previously obtained as follows:

"Loco plants grown on certain soils are inactive pharmacologically and contain no barium. In drying certain loco plants the barium apparently is rendered insoluble so that it is not extracted by water, but can usually be extracted by digestion with the digestive ferments.

"The barium to be harmful must be in such a form as to be dissolved out by digestion.

"In deciding whether plants are poisonous it is desirable not merely to test the aqueous or alcoholic extract, but also the extracts obtained by digesting these plants with the ferments which occur in the gastro-intestinal tract."

NEWS ITEMS

At Munich Dr. P. Renner has been made curator of the cryptogamic herbarium.

The University of Minnesota has been given over 2,000 acres of land for experimental forestry.

L. Lancelot Burlingame has been advanced to assistant professor of botany at Stanford University.

Columbia University is contemplating establishing a course in forestry, with the degree of forest engineer.

The Smithsonian Institution has recently received from Captain John Donnell Smith a second herbarium consisting of over seven thousand fern sheets.

Professor William Stuart, of the Department of Horticulture, University of Vermont, has accepted an appointment in the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. H. Metcalf, who has been traveling in Italy collecting resistant varieties of rice, has resumed his work in this country at the Bureau of Plant Industry.

The biology department of Princeton University has received about ten thousand specimens of mosses and hepatics from Dr. Per Dusen and Dr. Hj. Mäller, of Sweden.

The British Science Association is to meet at Winnipeg, August 25 to September 1. Reduced rates from points east and west, with side trips in Canada, are being offered.

Mr. B. E. Dahlgren, formerly connected with the American Museum of Natural History, New York, is now in Jamaica, making studies for a series of models of representative tropical plants for the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.

Dr. M. H. Boyè, a prominent chemist, died in March. Though far from the most important of his discoveries, readers of TORREYA may be most interested in his process of refining cotton seed oil (1845) thus securing the well-known colorless oil instead of the former blackish thick liquid.

The New York Botanical Garden offers from the income of the Caroline and Olivia E. Stokes Fund for the Preservation of Native Plants the following prizes for essays not exceeding 5,000 words: (*1*) $40.00, (*2*) $25.00, (*3*) $15.00. The essays must be typewritten in duplicate and must reach the Garden not later than June 20, 1909.

Professor F. S. Earle reports through *Science* that the Cuban administration has demanded the resignation of the staff of the Cuban Agricultural Station — a repetition of the Cuban football policy followed to satisfy the office seekers. Among the men thus unjustly displaced are the following botanists whom Professor Earle "heartily recommends to any institutions having vacancies" in their lines: Dr. H. Hasselbring, botany; Prof. Wm. T. Horne and Mr. J. S. Houser, vegetable pathology; and Prof. C. F. Austin and Mr. C. F. Kinman, horticulture.